

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN MEETING

Date: January 14, 2015
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Town Office
Present: Select Board: Chairman William F. Condra and Selectmen Richard E. Swanson and Kermit R. Williams. Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.
Budget Committee: Cary Hughes, Chairman, Don Davidson, Vice Chairman, Harry Dailey, Joyce Fisk, Caitlin Maki, Donna Pucciarello, Joe Torre, and Dawn Tuomala, Secretary

Chairmen Hughes and Condra each called their meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

These minutes are only a summary of the items discussed by the Selectmen. More detailed minutes are available through the Budget Committee.

Dawn Tuomala went through each department's budget.

Selectman Swanson questioned DPW Director Steve Elliott about overtime for plowing. Rick stated that he is interested in contracting out some of the plowing. Steve gave the history of how his employee's base rate had been cut when the decision was made to take away 5 hours of overtime per week. He also told of a winter when he had an employee out and of the difficulties he encountered getting that route plowed. Rick stated that he is troubled by employees getting comfortable with overtime.

The next item Selectman Swanson questioned was the Street Lighting line. Dawn explained the program of lighting replacement done years ago and the cost savings from this implementation. Rick told of presentations given that reduce wattage; or he suggested renegotiating a price with PSNH. He suggested that the Energy Committee can look into that next year. Chief Hautanen (who also worked with Dawn on this project) stated that we are locked into that amount for some period of time.

Selectman Swanson questioned the Goss Park support line item. Dawn explained how it works. Rick stated that when calculated, Wilton's share of support is skewed and somewhat larger than it should be.

A discussion about Sewer rates came up. Don Davidson asked if the Town made up the difference if the Sewer Department was over budget. Harry Dailey suggested that the overage was a Budget Committee oversight. Treasurer Jerry Greene said that the Sewer Commissioners are responsible to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Williams asked DPW Director Steve Elliott if the Recycling Center fees are high enough. Steve explained what happens if fees are too high and that a meeting of all member towns is necessary to change prices. Selectman Swanson asked about leaving the Dumpster Hauling line item flat and he asked why there was a surplus. Steve Elliott supplied answers.

Next, Selectman Swanson spoke on the Energy Audit and about the recommendations. The Energy Committee will be presenting a Warrant Article at Town Meeting of which the Board of Selectmen has given their support.

As Budget Committee Chairman Hughes went around the table to hear each member's opinion of the employee raise debate, the following comments were made by the Selectmen:

Swanson – He feels the employees are not being paid at market rate and to expect a 3% increase, which can be called a cost of living raise being separate from a merit raise. He wants a level tax rate but not on the back of our employees.

Williams – He would like to see a true merit raise in place, stating that we are missing out on it. He did not participate last year in the process for the Police Department raises. He feels the Town is missing the review process.

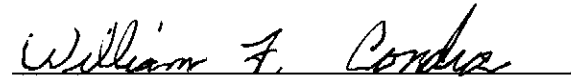
Condra – He feels we should keep up with the cost of living inflation and that 3% is reasonable. He spoke of the Performance Review program that the Selectmen are currently creating. The employees would be getting a cut if, at least, the cost of living increase isn't covered.

Chairman Condra made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 P.M. seconded by Selectman Swanson, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;



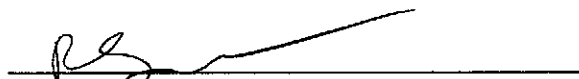
Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary



William F. Condra



Kermit R. Williams



Richard E. Swanson

1-19-15

Date Signed